



1763

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: **Patel et al** Attorney Docket No.: **P06-US**Serial Number: **09/649,569** Group Art Unit: **1763**Filed: **August 28, 2000** Examiner: **A. Olsen**For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FLOW OF PROCESS GAS IN AN ULTRA-CLEAN ENVIRONMENT****RESPONSE**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Date: March 17, 2003

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed December 19, 2002. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 42-44 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) Apparatus for etching a sample, said apparatus comprising:

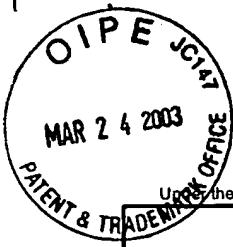
(a) a source of etchant gas selected from a noble gas halide and a halogen halide;

(b) an etching chamber in communication with said source of etchant gas;

(c) a recirculation loop passing through said etching chamber; and

(d) a pump disposed within said recirculation loop for recirculating etchant gas along said recirculation loop.

RECEIVED
MAR 28 2003
GROUP 1700



PTO/SB92 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office; U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

on March 17, 2003.

Date


Signature

Linda A. Bolton

Typed or printed name of person of signing Certificate

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.

Response to Office Action (P06-US) - 8 pages
Marked Copy of Claim Amendments - 15 pages
Claims as Now Pending - 13 pages
Return Receipt Postcard